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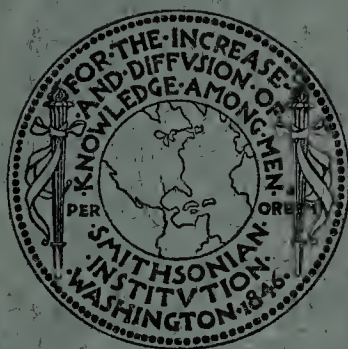
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Fifty-sixth Annual Report

of the

BUREAU OF AMERICAN
ETHNOLOGY

1938-1939



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

D. C.

FIFTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
BUREAU OF
AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

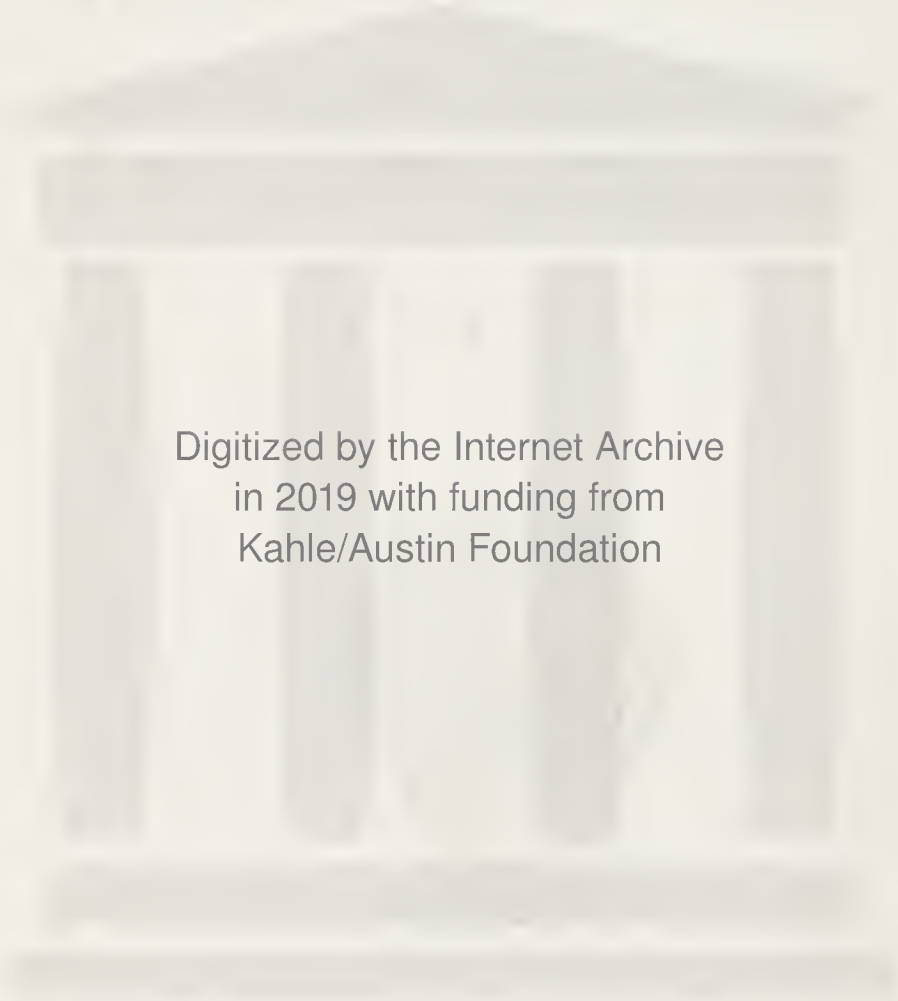
1938-1939



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FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

M. W. STIRLING, CHIEF

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report on the field researches, office work, and other operations of the Bureau of American Ethnology during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1939, conducted in accordance with the act of Congress of May 23, 1938, which provides "For continuing ethnological researches among the American Indians and the natives of Hawaii and the excavation and preservation of archeologic remains. . . ."

SYSTEMATIC RESEARCHES

M. W. Stirling, Chief, left Washington on December 24 to begin archeological excavations at a large site near the village of Tres Zapotes in southern Veracruz. This work was undertaken in co-operation with the National Geographic Society, which financed the expedition. The permission to conduct the work was obtained earlier in the year from the Mexican Department of Public Education, whose generous cooperation greatly facilitated the work. With Dr. C. W. Weiant as assistant, excavations were begun on January 1 and continued until April 15.

Although detailed results of this first season of work cannot be announced until further study has been made of the material, far-reaching connections are indicated which require careful study of the Maya, Zapotec, Huastec, and Teotihuacan areas. Nine major stone monuments were excavated at the site, including the famous "Cabesa Colosal," and a very large collection of ceramics and figurines was obtained. The most interesting discovery was a stone monument inscribed with an initial-series date. This is in a style closely related to that on the Tuxtla statuette and apparently records a late Baktun 7 date.

At the conclusion of the work the collections were brought to Mexico City where a division was effected with the Mexican Government. A large carved stone box and the dated monument were successfully transported to the National Museum in Mexico City.

The greater part of the year was devoted by Dr. John R. Swanton, ethnologist, to work connected with the researches of the United States De Soto Expedition Commission. During most of October and the first half of November 1938, he was in the field in the interest of that Commission. Visits were made by automobile to points in North and South Carolina and southern Georgia, and a great deal of time was spent in researches in Florida, where he was assisted materially by Dr. Herman Gunter, the State geologist, and J. Clarence Simpson. On leaving Florida, Dr. Swanton visited Dr. Walter B. Jones, member of the Commission from Alabama, at Tuscaloosa, and then went to Aberdeen, Miss., where he was met by Col. John R. Fordyce, the Commissioner from Arkansas. In company with Colonel Fordyce and Dr. W. A. Evans, of Aberdeen, he visited several points in northern Mississippi. Colonel Fordyce then drove him to Helena, Ark., where 2 days were spent in the examination of sites along Crowley's Ridge and on White River. Afterward excursions were made to the Menard Mounds near Little Rock and points along the Little Missouri River. On October 26 Dr. Swanton and Colonel Fordyce joined Miss Caroline Dormon, the Louisiana member of the Commission, and her sister, at Jonesville, La., and spent 2 days on the Ouachita and Tensas Rivers in launches kindly furnished by the Mississippi River Commission and accompanied by some of the Commission's officials. Later Dr. Swanton visited Baton Rouge to confer with members of the geological staff of the Louisiana State University, and with James A. Ford, the archeologist engaged in research work in that State, returning from there to Little Rock and thence to Washington.

The remainder of the calendar year 1938 was devoted to the completion of the report of the Commission, and during the first months of 1939 Dr. Swanton was engaged in reading proof for this report, which appeared in May as House Document No. 71 of the Seventy-sixth Congress. It covers 400 pages and includes 11 maps.

On May 30, by special invitation, Dr. Swanton attended the unveiling of a marker at Shaw's Point, near Bradenton, Fla., commemorative of the landing of De Soto, and during this trip he spoke to audiences at Rollins College, Winter Park, on the Indians of Florida and the work of the De Soto Commission, and before the Kiwanis Club at Bradenton and the Jacksonville Historical Society at Jacksonville on the latter subject.

On December 29, 1938, Dr. Swanton delivered the retiring address as president of section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The start of the fiscal year found Dr. John P. Harrington, ethnologist, engaged in a study of the northern provenience of the Navaho. This tribe, the largest single-dialect Indian population in the United

States, numbering some 50,000 souls, centers its present habitat in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico and speaks an aberrant form of Western Apache. It is patent that Western Apache, and also Eastern Apache (represented by Kiowa Apache, Jicarilla Apache, and Lipan) are tongues of northern origin, coming from beyond the present northern boundary of the United States, the language-bearing ancestors of these so-called Navaho and Apache peoples having migrated from the north. This migration was far back of the range of history, and the reason for accepting this migration is found in the existence of the surprisingly closely related Athapascan languages occupying all the interior of Alaska and western Canada, a patch near the mouth of the Columbia, and another taking in much of the southern Oregon and northern California coast region.

The study of the northern origin of the Navaho consisted of the assembling of documentation from historical and ethnological sources, interviewing of Indians, and discussions with archeologists and ethnologists engaged in Siberian, Alaskan, Great Basin, High Plains, and Navaho region investigations.

The nearest linguistic sisters of the Navaho language in the north are the Carrier and closely related Chilcotin of the southernmost part of the Northern Interior Plateau mentioned above, and east of them the Sarcee, in the Rockies and the plains just east of the Rockies.

The Smithsonian Institution having come into possession of an unprinted source giving a first-hand account of the Sacramento Valley Indians of California in 1850, including two vocabularies of native Indian languages, from the pen of Prince Paul, educated German traveler and friend of Sutter, the founder of Sacramento, Calif., Dr. Harrington left in May to check this new and important material with native informants. The source consisted of an account of the natives of the "Hok" farm, belonging to Sutter. Dr. Harrington discovered the old Indian rancheria mound called "Hok" on the west edge of the Feather River 7 miles south of Yuba City.

July 1 found Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., archeologist, in camp at the Lindenmeier site, north of Fort Collins, in northern Colorado, continuing his excavations in search of additional information on Folsom man, the aboriginal nomad who hunted bison, mammoth, and the American camel on the western plains during the closing stages of the glacial period. The work was carried on until the end of September when digging was stopped for the season. During the course of the summer's investigations 3,500 square feet of the original surface of occupation was uncovered. The overburden ranged from 3 to 8 feet in depth so that a considerable quantity of earth had to be removed before the stratum containing the desired archeological record was reached. Included in the layer were various concentrations of cut and split animal bones, most of them from the extinct *Bison taylori*,

several hearths, places where the stone chippers had made their tools from different kinds of material present in the vicinity, and an assortment of implements. The collection of specimens of the people's handicraft obtained from the season's excavations comprises, in addition to typically fluted points and a series of tools similar to those found in previous years, several new types of stone knives and scrapers and a number of bone fragments bearing portions of simple, incised, geometric decorations. This material serves to broaden the knowledge on the material culture complex characteristic of this group of early American peoples. The digging also produced important evidence on the relation between the occupation level and certain geologic deposits and helped confirm the correlation of the site with definite features dating from the late glacial horizon in that general area.

After the termination of the work at the Lindenmeier site, Dr. Roberts visited places in Nebraska, Wyoming, and Saskatchewan, Canada, where local collectors have found objects attributable to the Folsom or some other, presumably associated, complex. The sites in Nebraska are in the southwestern corner of the State in Chase and Dundy Counties. The locations inspected in Wyoming are in the northeastern part of the State in the vicinity of Sundance. The Saskatchewan sites are near Mortlach and are of interest because they extend the range of this type of material well toward the north along the postulated route of migration of peoples coming from Asia into the New World. From Mortlach, Dr. Roberts returned to Washington and resumed his office duties on November 1.

During the winter months galley and page proofs were read and corrected for the report, *Archeological Remains in the Whitewater District, Eastern Arizona, Part I, House Types*, which appeared as Bulletin 121 of the Bureau of American Ethnology. Manuscript for the second part of this report, describing the artifacts and burials associated with the house remains, was revised, completed, and transmitted to the editor for publication in the bulletin series. An article, *The Folsom Problem in American Archeology*, which appeared in the book *Early Man*, as depicted by leading authorities at the International Symposium at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, March 1937, was revised, augmented with new information and a series of illustrations, and otherwise made suitable for use in the appendix to the Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for 1938. In addition several short papers on archeological subjects were written for various anthropological journals. Information on Old World archeology was furnished for a radio broadcast on the subject *Pushing Back History*, and this and several other scripts for "The World is Yours" program were read and checked for errors.

In March the Honorable Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, appointed Dr. Roberts to represent the United States on the International Commission for Historic Monuments.

On June 9, 1939, Dr. Roberts left Washington for Colorado, where he resumed excavations at the Lindenmeier site. By the end of the fiscal year he had opened up another portion of the site and was obtaining further data on the Folsom problem.

Dr. Julian H. Steward, anthropologist, spent the months of July and August 1938 in continuing an archeological and ethnological reconnaissance in western South America which was begun during the preceding fiscal year. During this period several Indian villages of the highlands were visited, and a number of archeological sites were examined in both the highland and coastal regions. These researches were undertaken as a preliminary to the editing of the projected Handbook of South American Indians, and on his return to Washington Dr. Steward began preparation of the final plans for the Handbook. These plans were completed during the remainder of the fiscal year, and the project has now been initiated, various contributors having been invited to participate.

Scientific papers prepared by Dr. Steward during the past year are: Anthropological Reconnaissance of Southern Utah, for a Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin; Anthropological Reconnaissance in South America, for Explorations and Field-Work of the Smithsonian Institution in 1938; Some Observations on Shoshonean Distributions, for the American Anthropologist; The Economic Basis of Changes in the Shoshonean Indian Culture, for the Scientific Monthly; Notes on Hillers' Photographs of the Paiute and Ute Indians taken on the Powell Expedition of 1873, for the Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections.

Henry B. Collins, Jr., was appointed ethnologist in the Bureau, effective February 1, 1939, by transfer from the Division of Ethnology, United States National Museum. From February 1 to the end of the fiscal year Mr. Collins spent the greater part of his time working over the large and varied collection of artifacts, numbering several thousand specimens, which he excavated in 1936 at Cape Prince of Wales and other prehistoric Eskimo sites in the immediate vicinity of Bering Strait. A statement of the activities of Mr. Collins during the preceding part of the fiscal year is included in the report of the Department of Anthropology of the United States National Museum.

Dr. William N. Fenton, ethnologist, joined the staff of the Bureau of American Ethnology on February 6, 1939, coming to the Bureau from St. Lawrence University. He will continue ethnological

studies among the Iroquois groups in New York and Canada with the aim of cleaning up some of the ethnological problems in the northeastern area that remain from the research of previous students. The Rosenwald Fund of Chicago financed a field trip to the Senecas at Coldspring on the Allegany Reservation in southwestern New York during the interim that followed the end of the first semester at the University and preceded removal to Washington. Dr. Fenton wrote up his field notes on the Seneca Midwinter Festival as a supplement to notes taken in 1934, as soon as he was established at the Bureau. In April and May, Dr. Fenton wrote a monograph on Iroquois Suicide from cases collected during 1935, as a member of the United States Indian Field Service, and parallel cases that occur in the earlier ethnological and historical sources on the Iroquois. He submitted the manuscript for publication in June before leaving for the field. Another manuscript, *Tonawanda Longhouse Ceremonies: Ninety Years After Lewis Henry Morgan*, written in 1936 and recently rewritten, was submitted for publication at the same time.

SPECIAL RESEARCHES

Miss Frances Densmore, a collaborator of the Bureau, in continuation of her study of Indian music, submitted two manuscripts entitled "Choctaw War and Dance Songs" and "Choctaw and Seminole Songs," with phonograph records and transcriptions of 31 Choctaw and 9 Seminole songs. The Choctaw songs were recorded near Philadelphia, Miss., in January 1933, and the Seminole songs were recorded at Brighton, Fla., in February of the same year. Transcriptions and phonograph records of two performances on a Choctaw flute were also submitted. These flutes were played by medicine men during ball games to bring success to one group of players and confuse their opponents. Robert Henry, who recorded the flute playing, is a leading medicine man at the ball games. The 66 Choctaw songs, now in possession of the Bureau, were listed according to their catalog numbers. Fourteen manuscripts on the music of the Winnebago, previously submitted, were combined in one manuscript and retyped preparatory to publication, the retyped material comprising about 300 pages. The 205 Winnebago songs were arranged in final order, and listed according to serial and catalog numbers. The galley and page proof, also the music proof, of *Nootka and Quileute Music* were read during the year.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1939, John G. Carter, a collaborator of the Bureau, devoted considerable time to the ethnographic and Indian sign-language material contained in the manu-

scripts of the late Maj. Gen. Hugh L. Scott, United States Army. These manuscripts, together with other material, were donated to the Bureau by the widow of General Scott. The material donated consisted of newspaper clippings, pamphlets and other printed matter, photographs, and manuscript.

This material was examined, read, and classified. The photographs were turned over to their proper custodian in the Bureau for filing and record. The pamphlets and other printed matter were disposed of in like manner. The manuscript was read and classified in separate filing jackets. Many historical references in these manuscripts were checked for accuracy.

An extensive research was made into the writings of most of the early discoverers and explorers of the North American continent, beginning with the Norsemen, in order to determine the extent to which and the localities in which the sign language was used by the North American Indians. It was ascertained, as far as the records which have been examined to date reveal, that the sign language was confined to the buffalo-hunting tribes of the plains west of the Mississippi River, and to tribes adjacent to the plains who made seasonal hunts into the buffalo country. This confirms the statements made by General Scott in his manuscripts.

EDITORIAL WORK AND PUBLICATIONS

The editing of the publications of the Bureau was continued through the year by Stanley Searles, editor.

BULLETINS ISSUED DURING THE YEAR

118. An Archaeological Survey of the Norris Basin in Eastern Tennessee, by William S. Webb.

119. Anthropological Papers, Nos. 1-6. No. 1, A Preliminary Report on Archeological Explorations at Macon, Ga., by A. R. Kelly. No. 2, The Northern Arapaho Flat Pipe and the Ceremony of Covering the Pipe, by John G. Carter. No. 3, The Caribs of Dominica, by Douglas Taylor. No. 4, What Happened to Green Bear Who Was Blessed With a Sacred Pack, by Truman Michelson. No. 5, Lemhi Shoshoni Physical Therapy, by Julian H. Steward. No. 6, Panatübijí, an Owens Valley Paiute, by Julian H. Steward.

120. Basin-Plateau Aboriginal Sociopolitical Groups, by Julian H. Steward.

121. Archeological Remains in the Whitewater District, Eastern Arizona. Part I, House Types, by Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr.

122. An Archaeological Survey of Wheeler Basin on the Tennessee River in Northern Alabama, by William S. Webb.

123. Anthropological Papers, Nos. 7-12. No. 7, Archeological Investigations in the Corozal District of British Honduras, by Thomas and Mary Gann. No. 8, Linguistic Classification of Cree and Montagnais-Naskapi Dialects, by Trumau Michelson. No. 9, Sedelmayr's Relacion of 1746, translated and edited by

Ronald L. Ives. No. 10, Notes on the Creek Indians, by J. N. B. Hewitt, edited by John R. Swanton. No. 11, The Yaruros of the Capanaparo River, Venezuela, by Vincenzo Petruccio. No. 12, Archeology of Arauquin, by Vincenzo Petruccio.

IN PRESS

101. War Ceremony and Peace Ceremony of the Osage Indians, by Francis La Flesche.

124. Nootka and Quileute Music, by Frances Densmore.

125. Ethnography of the Fox Indians, by William Jones, edited by Margaret Wepley Fisher.

The Index to Schoolcraft's Indian Tribes has been completed. Publications distributed totaled 19,527.

LIBRARY

The library continued under the direction of Miss Miriam B. Ketchum, librarian. Accessions during the year totaled 223.

The exchange list has been completely revised and brought up to date, and seven new exchange sets have been added.

The rare book section was finished early in the fiscal year, and the rarest items and many others of importance have been shelved in it. More than half of these books have been recataloged and classified and permanently labeled and shelved.

All the publications of North American societies and institutions have been sorted and all matter not in the field of the Bureau discarded as far as possible.

The librarian attended the meetings of the Inter-American Bibliographical and Historical Society at Washington, D. C., in February, and the Special Libraries Association at Baltimore in May.

The usual routine work of accessioning and cataloging new material and entering new periodicals received has been kept up to date.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Following is a summary of work accomplished by E. G. Cassedy, illustrator:

Topographic surveying-----	1
Plates prepared-----	94
Line drawings-----	114
Photographs retouched-----	44
Lettering jobs-----	126
Graphs-----	12
Maps-----	18
Mechanical drawings-----	2
Engrossing jobs-----	1
Total-----	412

COLLECTIONS

Accession
No.

- 148,708. Potsherds, figurine fragments, and other artifacts from various sites in Mexico, collected in 1938 by M. W. Stirling for the Bureau. (51 specimens.)
- 152,153. Male skeleton from deep trench west of Mound A, Shiloh National Monument, Tenn., and a miscellaneous archeological collection, obtained in the course of excavations conducted by F. H. H. Roberts, Jr., during the winter of 1933-34 in cooperation with the Civil Works Administration.

MISCELLANEOUS

During the course of the year information was furnished by members of the Bureau staff in reply to numerous inquiries concerning the North American Indians, both past and present, and the Mexican peoples of the prehistoric and early historic periods. Various specimens sent to the Bureau were identified and data on them furnished for their owners.

Personnel.—Dr. Truman Michelson, ethnologist, died July 26, 1938. On February 1, 1939, Henry B. Collins, Jr., was appointed by transfer from the United States National Museum to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Michelson. Dr. William N. Fenton was appointed as ethnologist on February 6, 1939. H. B. Chappell resigned as clerk in the library of the Bureau on October 4, 1938, and Walter B. Greenwood was appointed on November 1, 1938, to fill this vacancy. Stanley Searles, editor, retired on June 30, 1939.

Respectfully submitted.

M. W. STIRLING, *Chief.*

Dr. C. G. ABBOT,

Secretary, Smithsonian Institution.







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